

What is claimed is:

1 1. (Amended) A digital apparatus for reproducing a digital video representative  
2 signal stored on a recorded medium connected to a receiving device including a  
3 decoder, said apparatus comprising:

4 means for processing said digital video representative signal stored on the  
5 recorded medium to produce at an output a compressed digital video signal bit  
6 stream for decoding by the decoder;

7 a generator generating a status message signal indicative of an operating  
8 mode of said apparatus; and,

9 a display message combiner having a first input coupled to said message  
10 signal and a second input receiving a video signal decoded from said compressed  
11 digital video signal bit stream, said combiner combining said message signal with  
12 said video signal for display.

1 2. The digital apparatus of claim 1, wherein said status message generator is  
2 responsive to a tape timer or time code signal.

1 3. The digital apparatus of claim 1, wherein generation of said message data signal  
2 by said status message generator is in response to receipt of a user generated  
3 command signal.

1 4. The digital apparatus of claim 3, further comprising an infrared receiver  
2 connected to said status message generator for receiving an infrared signal from a  
3 remote control unit, said infrared signal controlling the operating mode of said  
4 apparatus.

1 5. A receiving device receiving and decoding compressed digital video signals, said  
2 receiver device comprising:

3 a receiving means for receiving and selecting between a first compressed  
4 digital video signal from a network source and a second compressed digital video  
5 signal and a display message data signal from a local source;

6 a decoder coupled to said receiving means for decoding said selected one of  
7 said first and second compressed digital signals to form a video signal ;

8 control means coupled to said receiving means for controlling selection  
9 between said first and second compressed digital video signals, and responsive to  
10 selection of said second compressed digital video signal, receiving said display  
11 message data signal; and

12 means for combining a display message formed from said display message  
13 data signal with said video signal decoded from said second compressed digital  
14 video signal to generate a combined video signal for display.

1 6. The digital television receiver of claim 5, wherein said second compressed  
2 digital television signal is reproduced from a digital recorder.

1 7. The digital television receiver of claim 8, wherein said display message data  
2 signal is a recorder status message.

1 8. The digital television receiver of claim 5, further comprising delay means  
2 connected to said control means for delaying transmission of said message data  
3 signal to said means for combining.

1 9. The digital television receiver of claim 5, wherein said receiver selects between  
2 said first compressed digital video signal and second compressed digital video  
3 signal responsive a user generated command signal.

1 10. The digital television receiver of claimed in claim 9, further comprising an  
2 infrared receiver connected to said control means for receiving an infrared signal  
3 from a remote control unit, said infrared signal controlling selection between said  
4 first compressed digital video signal and second compressed digital video signal.

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